CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DRAFTING NEW FIRE PREVENTION ORDINANCES

January 16, 2008

Materials released to the news media

1. **Proposed Local Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**
   (http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fhsz_maps/fhsz_maps_sandiego.php)

2. **Fire Solutions #1: I did everything right**

3. **California Building Code, Section 701A, Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure**

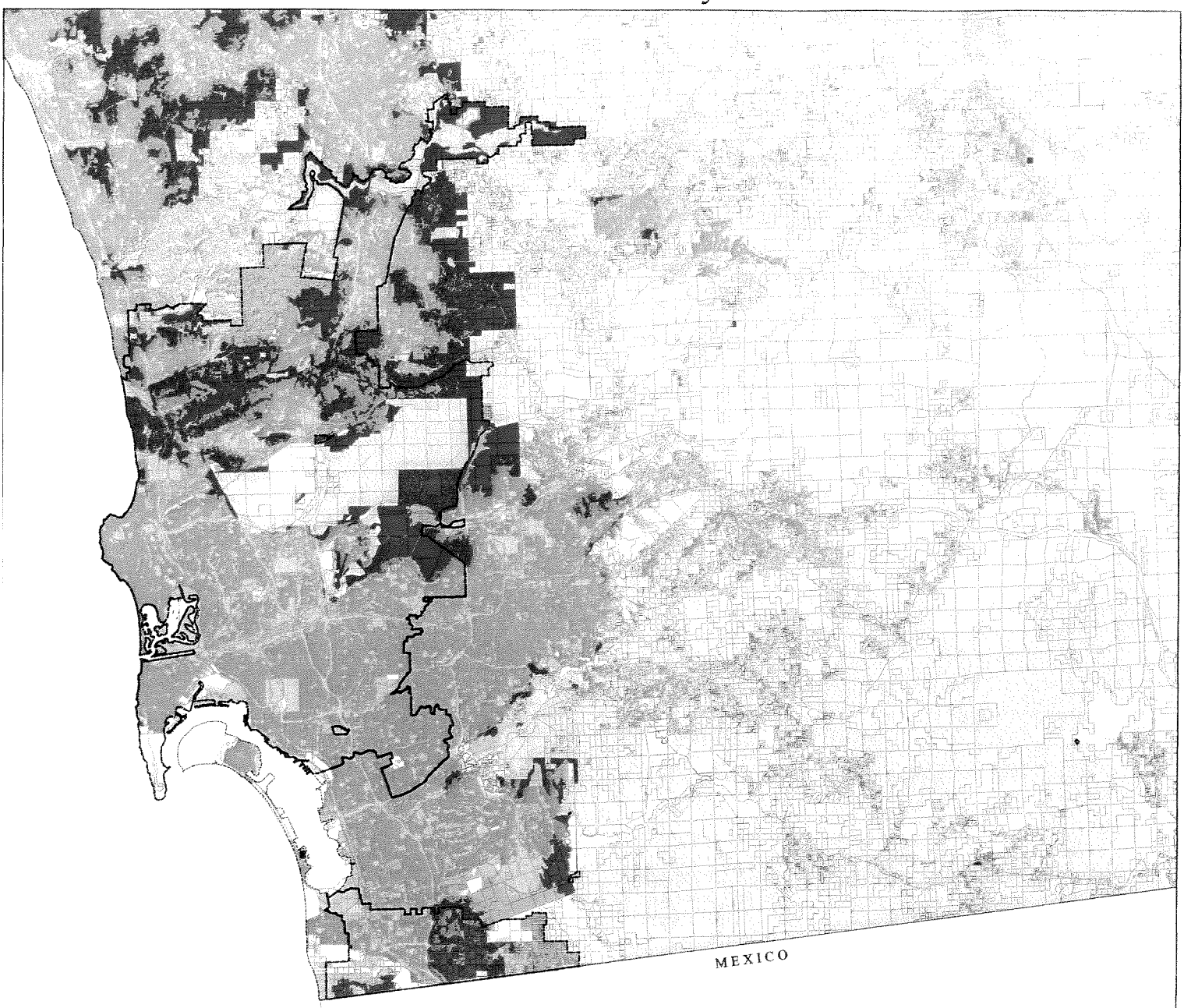
4. **Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards, Office of the State Fire Marshal's Emergency Regulations Amending California Code of Regulations**

5. **Model Ordinance for Establishment of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, 2008**

5. **Homeowner Wildfire Assessment**

San Diego

DRAFT Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA



Fire Hazard Severity Zones

LRA Very High	Other Very High
LRA High	Other High
LRA Moderate	Other Moderate
LRA Unzoned	Other Unzoned

City Boundary
Parcels
County Boundary

This map was developed using data products such as parcel and city boundaries provided by local government agencies. In certain cases, this includes copyrighted geographic information. The maps are for display purposes only - questions and requests related to parcel or city boundary data should be directed to the appropriate local government entity.

Projection Albers, NAD 1983
Scale 1: 95,000
at 36" x 42"
September 17, 2007

Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata and publications on the Internet at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov
For more information, contact CAL FIRE, FRAP, P.O.Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, (916) 327-3933

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency
Ruben Grijalva, Director
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Map ID: San_Diego

DATA SOURCES:
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs 06_11)

Proposed Fire Hazard Severity Zones

PRC 4201-4204 direct the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to map fire hazard within State Responsibility Areas (SRA), based on relevant factors such as fuels, terrain, and weather. These statutes were passed after significant wildland-urban interface fires; consequently these hazards are described according to their potential for causing ignitions to buildings. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), provide the basis for application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risks to buildings associated with wildland fires. Specifically, the zone determines the requirements for unique building codes designed to reduce the ignition potential to buildings.

These maps have been created by CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) using data and models describing development patterns, potential fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon, terrain, and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure to new construction. Details on the project and specific modeling methodology can be found at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/fhz.html.

Questions about the map can be directed to David Sapsis at 916.445.5369, dave.sapsis@fire.ca.gov.

Map Help

How to Use this Website

1. To search by a specific address, type the address into the box in the top right corner above and click "Center on Address ". You will immediately see results (in text) for each of the map layers for the address you entered in a box in the top left corner of the map window. You can visually explore each of these results in the map window by clicking a specific map layer in the "Choose layer" menu using the navigation controls as described in number 3 below.

2. To more generally explore the map (instead of searching a specific address), click the "+" image in the upper right hand corner of the map window. You can turn layers off and on by selecting and deselecting them, and you can use the navigation controls as described below.

3. Use the map navigation buttons in the top left corner of the map window to move around the layer you have chosen. The direction arrows can be used to pan in a specific direction. To zoom in or out, click the level of the scale that you would like displayed, or click on hold the scale indicator and slide it along the scale bar. To see information about a specific location, click the point you are interested in -- the results will be listed in a box to the right of the map window.

4. To print a map, use the navigation tools described in 3 above to capture the level of zoom and geographic extent that you wish to print. Click the print button in the upper right hand panel and the map will appear in a printable format. Use your web browser print function to print the document. To print a different map, go back to the active map window and choose another location.

4. More information about each layer, including how it was created and how it can be used, will appear in this window at the same time as the layer is displayed in the map window.

5. If you have a problem loading a layer or receive an error message, often just clicking the reload button on your browser will resolve the problem.

Fire Protection Responsibility Areas

Responsibility for fire protection is divided into Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA), State Responsibility Areas (SRA), and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA).

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has a legal responsibility to provide fire protection on all SRA lands, which are defined based on land ownership, population density and land use. For example, CDF does not have responsibility for densely populated areas, agricultural lands, or lands administered by the federal government.

Fire Solutions #1: I did everything right. Why did my house burn down during a wildland fire?

DRAFT COPY Contact: Richard W. Halsey 760-822-0029

Problem: Many homes burn down during wildland fires even though the homeowner appears to have complied with all fire safety regulations.

Solution: The vulnerability of a home during a wildland fire depends on three basic variables: location, building design, and defensible space. Fire exploits the weakest link. If any one of these variables is not properly addressed, the chances a home will burn during a wildland fire increases dramatically.

Location: The placement of a home within the wildland/urban interface is critical. While offering the best views, home sites located at the tops of canyons or within mountain saddles are extremely dangerous. These topographical features concentrate both heat and embers and funnel them directly at the home. Such locations have been the sites of both firefighter and homeowner fatalities. Consequently, homes within such vulnerable locations are usually considered indefensible by firefighters and they will not risk their lives to protect them. While some fire risk can be mitigated on such sites by building design and vegetation management, it is impossible to make them fire safe.

Design: The primary cause of home ignition during a wildland fire is by embers landing in vulnerable locations or entering attic spaces through roof vents. Therefore it is vital to install attic vents designed to resist ember entry, box-in all exposed wood surfaces (eaves, undersides of decks, etc.), and eliminate flammable surfaces that possess nooks and crannies in which embers can settle (tile/concrete roof edges, porch corners, etc.)

Defensible Space: At the minimum, all flammable material within the first 30 feet around a home should be removed (including stacks of wood, patio furniture, etc.) and vegetation within the next 70 feet should be properly thinned to 50% cover

Homes marked by an "X" burned during a wildland fire. All four are within a mountain saddle above a canyon.

and managed to eliminate a continuous bed of fuel that could bring fire to the house. Do NOT clear vegetation down to the dirt! This will encourage the growth of weeds which, if not continually removed, can increase the fire hazard. It is critical to create a managed zone with lightly irrigated vegetation that will form a barrier to embers and heat flow. Properly thinned, irrigated vegetation helps to break up and cool air currents that send embers and heat toward the structure. Plants that can produce embers (palm trees, acacia, etc.) should not be within the 100 foot defensible space zone. Homes above slopes may need additional vegetation management beyond 100 feet.

How to reduce fire risk is not a one answer question. It is critical to address all three variables of the fire-risk reduction triade: location, design, and defensible space.

References: Cohen, J.D. 1999. Reducing the wildland fire threat to homes: where and how much? USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Report PSW-GTR-173, pp 189 –195.

Cohen, J.D. 2000. Preventing disaster: home ignitability in the wildland-urban interface. Journal of Forestry 98: 15 – 21.

CHAPTER 7A [SFM]

MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS FOR EXTERIOR WILDFIRE EXPOSURE

SECTION 701A
SCOPE, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

701A.1 Scope. This chapter applies to building materials, systems and/or assemblies used in the exterior design and construction of new buildings located within a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area as defined in Section 702A.

701A.2 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area to resist the intrusion of flames or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire and contributes to a systematic reduction in conflagration losses.

701A.3 Application. New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after December 1, 2005, shall comply with the following sections:

1. *704A.1—Roofing*
2. *704A.2—Attic Ventilation*

701A.3.1 Alternates for materials, design, tests, and methods of construction. The enforcing agency is permitted to modify the provisions of this chapter for site-specific conditions in accordance with Appendix Chapter 1, Section 104.10. When required by the enforcing agency for the purposes of granting modifications, a fire protection plan shall be submitted in accordance with the California Fire Code, Chapter 47.

701A.3.2 New buildings located in any fire hazard severity zone. New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.

701A.3.2.1 Inspection and certification. Building permit applications and final completion approvals for buildings within the scope and application of this chapter shall comply with the following:

701A.3.2.2 The local building official shall, prior to construction, provide the owner or applicant a certification that the building as proposed to be built complies with all applicable state and local building standards, including those for materials and construction methods for wildfire exposure as described in this chapter.

701A.3.2.3 The local building official shall, upon completion of construction, provide the owner or applicant with a copy of the final inspection report that demonstrates the building was constructed in compliance with all applicable state and local building standards, including those for materials and construction methods for wildlife exposure as described in this chapter.

701A.3.2.4 Prior to building permit final approval the property shall be in compliance with the vegetation clearance requirements prescribed in California Public Resources Code 4291 California Government Code Section 51182.

SECTION 702A
DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this chapter, certain terms are defined below:

***CDF DIRECTOR** means the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.*

***FIRE PROTECTION PLAN** is a document prepared for a specific project or development proposed for a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Area. It describes ways to minimize and mitigate potential for loss from wildfire exposure.*

The Fire Protection Plan shall be in accordance with this chapter and the California Fire Code, Chapter 47. When required by the enforcing agency for the purposes of granting modifications, a fire protection plan shall be submitted. Only locally adopted ordinances that have been filed with the California Building Standards Commission or the Department of Housing and Community Development in accordance with Section 101.8 shall apply.

***FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES** are geographical areas designated pursuant to California Public Resources Codes Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Areas or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189. See California Fire Code Article 86.*

The California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 1280, entitles the maps of these geographical areas as "Maps of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the State Responsibility Area of California."

***IGNITION-RESISTANT MATERIAL** is any product which, when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84 for a period of 30 minutes, shall have a flame spread of not over 25 and show no evidence of progressive combustion. In addition, the flame front shall not progress more than 10½ feet (3200 mm) beyond the centerline of the burner at any time during the test.*

Materials shall pass the accelerated weathering test and be identified as exterior type, in accordance with ASTM D 2898 and ASTM D 3201. All materials shall bear identification showing the fire performance rating thereof. That identification shall be issued by ICC-ES or a testing facility recognized

by the State Fire Marshal having a service for inspection of materials at the factory.

Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood or noncombustible materials as defined in Section 202 shall satisfy the intent of this section.

The enforcing agency may use other definitions of ignition-resistant material that reflect wildfire exposure to building materials and/or their materials, performance in resisting ignition.

***LOCAL AGENCY VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE** means an area designated by a local agency upon the recommendation of the CDF Director pursuant to Government Code Sections 51177(c), 51178 and 5118 that is not a state responsibility area and where a local agency, city, county, city and county, or district is responsible for fire protection.*

***STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA** means lands that are classified by the Board of Forestry pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125 where the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing forest fires is primarily the responsibility of the state.*

***WILDFIRE** is any uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels that threatens to destroy life, property, or resources as defined in Public Resources Code Sections 4103 and 4104.*

***WILDFIRE EXPOSURE** is one or a combination of radiant heat, convective heat, direct flame contact and burning embers being projected by vegetation fire to a structure and its immediate environment.*

***WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE AREA** is a geographical area identified by the state as a "Fire Hazard Severity Zone" in accordance with the Public Resources Code Sections 4201 through 4204 and Government Code Sections 51175 through 51189, or other areas designated by the enforcing agency to be at a significant risk from wildfires. See Section 706A for the applicable referenced sections of the Government Code and the Public Resources Code.*

SECTION 703A
STANDARDS OF QUALITY

***703A.1 General.** Material, systems, and methods of construction used shall be in accordance with this Chapter.*

***703A.2 Qualification by testing.** Material and material assemblies tested in accordance with the requirements of Section 703A shall be accepted for use when the results and conditions of those tests are met. Testing shall be performed by a testing agency approved by the State Fire Marshal or identified by an ICC-ES report.*

***703A.3 Standards of quality.** The State Fire Marshal standards listed below and as referenced in this chapter are located in the California Referenced Standards Code, Part 12 and Chapter 35 of this code.*

SFM 12-7A-1, Exterior Wall Siding and Sheathing.

SFM 12-7A-2, Exterior Window.

SFM 12-7A-3, Under Eave.

SFM 12-7A-4, Decking.

SECTION 704A
MATERIALS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION

704A.1 Roofing.

***704A.1.1 General.** Roofs shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 7A and Chapter 15. Roofs shall have a roofing assembly installed in accordance with its listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions.*

***704A.1.2 Roof coverings.** Where the roof profile allows a space between the roof covering and roof decking, the spaces shall be constructed to prevent the intrusion of flames and embers, be firestopped with approved materials or have one layer of No. 72 ASTM cap sheet installed over the combustible decking.*

***704A.1.3 Roof valleys.** When provided, valley flashings shall be not less than 0.019-inch (0.48 mm) (No. 26 galvanized sheet gage) corrosion-resistant metal installed over a minimum 36-inch-wide (914 mm) underlayment consisting of one layer of No. 72 ASTM cap sheet running the full length of the valley.*

***704A.1.4** Reserved.*

***704A.1.5 Roof gutters.** Roof gutters shall be provided with the means to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter.*

704A.2 Attic ventilation.

***704A.2.1 General.** When required by Chapter 15, roof and attic vents shall resist the intrusion of flame and embers into the attic area of the structure, or shall be protected by corrosion-resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with $^1/_4$-inch (6 mm) openings or its equivalent.*

***704A.2.2 Eave or cornice vents.** Vents shall not be installed in eaves and cornices.*

***Exception:** Eave and cornice vents may be used provided they resist the intrusion of flame and burning embers into the attic area of the structure.*

***704A.2.3 Eave protection.** Eaves and soffits shall meet the requirements of SFM 12-7A-3 or shall be protected by ignition-resistant materials or noncombustible construction on the exposed underside.*

704A.3 Exterior walls.

***704A.3.1 General.** Exterior walls shall be approved noncombustible or ignition-resistant material, heavy timber, or log wall construction or shall provide protection from the intrusion of flames and embers in accordance with standard SFM 12-7A-1.*

***704A.3.1.1 Exterior wall coverings.** Exterior wall coverings shall extend from the top of the foundation to the roof, and terminate at 2-inch (50.8 mm) nominal solid wood blocking between rafters at all roof overhangs, or in the case of enclosed eaves, terminate at the enclosure.*

***704A.3.2 Exterior wall openings.** Exterior wall openings shall be in accordance with this section.*

***704A.3.2.1 Exterior wall vents.** Unless otherwise prohibited by other provisions of this code, vent openings in*

exterior walls shall resist the intrusion of flame and embers into the structure or vents shall be screened with a corrosion-resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with 1/4 inch (6 mm) openings or its equivalent.

704A.3.2.2 Exterior glazing and window walls. *Exterior windows, window walls, glazed doors, and glazed openings within exterior doors shall be insulating-glass units with a minimum of one tempered pane, or glass block units, or have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes, when tested according to ASTM E 2010, or conform to the performance requirements of SFM 12-7A-2.*

704A.3.2.3 Exterior door assemblies. *Exterior door assemblies shall conform to the performance requirements of standard SFM 12-7A-1 or shall be of approved noncombustible construction, or solid core wood having stiles and rails not less than 1 3/8 inches thick with interior field panel thickness no less than 1 1/4 inches thick, or shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 20 minutes when tested according to ASTM E 2074.*

Exception: *Noncombustible or exterior fire-retardant treated wood vehicle access doors are not required to comply with this chapter.*

704A.4 Decking, floors and underfloor protection.

704A.4.1 Decking.

704A.4.1.1 Decking surfaces. *Decking, surfaces, stair treads, risers, and landings of decks, porches, and balconies where any portion of such surface is within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the primary structure shall comply with one of the following methods:*

1. *Shall be constructed of ignition-resistant materials and pass the performance requirements of SFM 12-7A-4, Parts A and B.*
2. *Shall be constructed with heavy timber, exterior fire-retardant-treated wood or approved noncombustible materials.*
3. *Shall pass the performance requirements of SFM 12-7A-4, Part A, 12-7A-4.7.5.1 only with a net peak heat release rate of 25kW/sq-ft for a 40-minute observation period and:*
   a. *Decking surface material shall pass the accelerated weathering test and be identified as exterior type, in accordance with ASTM E 84 and;*
   b. *The exterior wall covering to which it the deck is attached and within 10 (3048 mm) feet of the deck shall be constructed of approved noncombustible or ignition resistant material.*

   Exception: *Walls are not required to comply with this subsection if the decking surface material conforms to ASTM E-84 Class B flame spread.*

The use of paints, coatings, stains, or other surface treatments are not an approved method of protection as required in this chapter.

704A.4.2 Underfloor and appendages protection.

704A.4.2.1 Underside of appendages and floor projections. *The underside of cantilevered and overhanging appendages and floor projections shall maintain the ignition-resistant integrity of exterior walls, or the projection shall be enclosed to the grade.*

704A.4.2.2 Unenclosed underfloor protection. *Buildings shall have all underfloor areas enclosed to the grade with exterior walls in accordance with Section 704A.3.*

Exception: *The complete enclosure of under floor areas may be omitted where the underside of all exposed floors, exposed structural columns, beams and supporting walls are protected as required with exterior ignition-resistant material construction or be heavy timber.*

704A.5 Ancillary buildings and structures.

704A.5.1 Ancillary buildings and structures. *When required by the enforcing agency, ancillary buildings and structures and detached accessory structures shall comply with the provisions of this chapter.*

Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
Office of the State Fire Marshal

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE BUILDING STANDARDS INFORMATION BULLETIN

September 28, 2007_kr

REVISED EFFECTIVE DATE OF ENFORCEMENT FOR WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE BUILDING STANDARDS IN LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS WITH VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to advise local code enforcement agencies and interested parties of a code adoption or change.

On September 20, 2007, the California Building Standards Commission approved the Office of the State Fire Marshal's emergency regulations amending the following section of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 2, known as the 2007 California Building Code (CBC).

701A.3.2 New Buildings Located in Any Fire Hazard Severity Zone. ~~*New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas, any Local Agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.*~~ *New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone shall comply with one of the following:*

1. State Responsibility Areas. *New buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone within State Responsibility Areas, for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.*

2. Local Agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. *New buildings located in any Local Agency Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after July 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.*

3. Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency . *New buildings located in any Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.*

The broad objective of the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area Building Standards are to establish minimum standards for materials and material assemblies and provide a reasonable level of exterior wildfire exposure protection for buildings in Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas. The use of ignition resistant materials and design to resist the intrusion of flame or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire (wildfire exposure) will prove to be the most prudent effort California has made to try and mitigate the losses resulting from our repeating cycle of interface fire disasters.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) revised the mandatory effective date for those areas where local government has responsibility for wildland fire protection (LRA) to July 1, 2008 for the following reasons:

CAL FIRE, is conducting a review and update of fire hazard severity zones pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 4201 – 4204 and Government Code Sections 51175 – 51189. CAL FIRE completed the initial public hearings for the adoption of Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) for those areas of California where the state has fiscal responsibility for wildland fire protection, known as State Responsibility Areas (SRA). CAL FIRE's intent is to complete the SRA FHSZ adoption by December, 2007. CAL FIRE is preparing recommendations for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in those areas where local government has responsibility for wildland fire protection (LRA) and transmit those recommendations to local agencies in early 2008.

During the fire hazard severity zone hearing for SRA, several local government officials asked for clarification of authorities and responsibilities associated with the adoption of these LRA VHFHSZ recommendations. Basic authorities and responsibilities for the LRA VHFHSZ are found in Government Code Sections 51175 – 51189. The purpose of this Government Code chapter is to classify lands in accordance with whether a very high fire hazard severity is present so that public officials are able to identify measures that will retard the rate of spread, and reduce the potential intensity, of uncontrolled fires that threaten to destroy resources, life, or property, and to require that those measures be taken.

The Government Code chapter defines responsibilities for CAL FIRE and for the local agency. In summary, Section 51178 and 51181 defines the CAL FIRE Director's responsibility to identify very high fire hazard severity zones, transmit this information to local agencies, and to periodically review the recommendations. In part, Section 51178.5 and 51179 defines the local agency's responsibility to make the recommendation available for public review and to designate, by ordinance, very high fire hazard severity zones in its jurisdiction.

CAL FIRE is taking additional steps to ensure that the recommended very high fire hazard severity zones are as accurate as possible. Draft copies of the proposed VHFHSZ have been under field review and validation since January, 2007. An updated draft LRA recommendation will me made available in early fall, 2007. This update will also reflect the comments received during the SRA FHSZ public hearings that may impact LRA zones. Unit level CAL FIRE staff have been instructed to assist local agencies in the review of the draft recommendations.

In addition to the very high fire hazard severity maps, CAL FIRE has mapped high and moderate fire hazard severity areas. This additional information will be made available to local agencies as part of the draft data and then upon request subsequent to the Director's recommendation. The California Constitution grants basic authority for local agencies to adopt ordinances. This constitutional authority can be used to adopt high and/or moderate fire hazard severity areas or other wildland urban interface areas within the local jurisdiction.

CAL FIRE is developing a CCR Title 14 regulation to clarify an update and maintenance process for the fire hazard maps, both in the SRA and in the LRA. It is anticipated that this regulation will include update triggers initiated by CAL FIRE or by local agencies. Such triggers may be based on improvements in hazard mapping data or associated fire science, changes in land ownership (specifically conversions of federal land to private ownership), changes in land use of significant size to influence fire hazard, changes in wildland fire protection responsibility, or other significant factors.

CAL FIRE is developing a model ordinance for the adoption of the very high fire hazard zones. This model ordinance will include optional sections for the adoption of other fire hazard severity zones.

The VHFHSZ maps define where to implement ignition resistant building standards, maintain defensible space, and disclose natural hazard at the time of sale. Health and Safety Code 13108.5 (c) and GC 51179 (b) provide insight on flexibility local agencies may have to exclude the fire protection building standards and defensible space requirements once VHFHSZs are adopted. While these sections of law do not provide exemptions for adopting the maps, they may provide authority to exclude fire protection requirements otherwise triggered by the map designations.

During this delayed period CAL FIRE and the OSFM will be providing training and education to enforcing agencies, public, design professionals and building industry. These interested parties will also become educated on how to identify and work comfortably with performance based construction alternatives in their communities.

The regulations contained in CBC Chapter 7A will not be mandatory in SRA FHSZ until January 1, 2008 and July 1, 2008 for LRA FHSZ, but voluntary and there will be a higher understanding that any new building constructed in a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area will be designed and constructed with the intent of lessening the vulnerability of a building to resist the intrusion of flames and burning embers projected during a conflagration or wildfire.

After consulting with the Director of CAL FIRE and key stakeholders both internally and externally, OSFM has concluded that this appropriate action to take to keep us on schedule with the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map rollout and provide enough time for developers, builders, and building officials to know where and how the codes apply.

This will not change any project timelines; it merely lets those jurisdictions that are ready to adopt locally on January 1, 2008 to do so and the other jurisdictions have adequate time to prepare and adopt the FHSZ maps after they are finalized and published.

Questions and information regarding this Information Bulletin should be directed to the local Unit Chief. Please visit the CAL FIRE web site at www.fire.ca.gov for contact information.

Local Agency Model Ordinance for Establishment of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, 2008.

(CAL FIRE Draft November 1, 2007, Training Shell)

Adopt: 14 CCR § 1281 Local Agency Model Ordinance for Establishment of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

(a) Purpose. These regulations provide a model ordinance to local agencies for establishment of Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (vhfhsz) and include criteria and procedures to modify the official vhfhsz map transmitted to the local agency by the Director of CAL FIRE.

(b) Definitions.

Adopt: 14 CCR § 1281. 1 Model Ordinance

(a) The following (see Attachment 1) is a model ordinance for local agencies to adopt for establishment of vhfhsz. Section 1 contains requirements to adopt the vhfhsz map officially transmitted by the Director. Section 2 is optional, and is included when the local agency includes additional vhfhsz areas pursuant to GC 55179(c).

(b) Ordinances for establishment of vhfhsz adopted by local agencies shall be presumed in compliance with the State Fire Marshal's model ordinance when they substantially conform to the SFM model ordinance.

Attachment 1

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY (OR COUNTY) OF _____ REQUIRING THE DESIGNATION OF VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES.

THE _____ BOARD (COUNCIL) OF THE _____ DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The Board (*Council*) hereby designates Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones as recommended by the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Government Code Section 51179 (a) and as designated on a map titled XXXXXX, dated XXXXXXX and retained on file at XXXXXXXXX.

Section 2 (*optional*): The Board (*Council*) hereby declares an additional area as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone pursuant to Government Code Section 51179 (c) as recommended by the Fire Chief of (*Fire District/Fire Department*) based on a finding a finding supported by substantial evidence in the record that the requirements of Government Code Section 51182 are necessary for effective fire protection within the area and as designated on a map titled XXXXXX, dated XXXXXXX and retained on file at XXXXXXXXX.

On the motion of Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____. The role call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

The foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted this ____ day of _____, 19____.

_____

(mayor or lead council member)

Attest: _____

(city clerk)

Adopt: 14 CCR § 1281. 2 Criteria and procedures for changing the officially transmitted Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone map

(a) Criteria and procedures are established for changing the official transmitted vhfhsz map.

1) Changes in local wildfire hazard environment: A change in the vhfhsz maps based on changes in the local wildland fire environment of sufficient size, scale and other related factors to affect the local fire hazard.

2) Changes in the area's basic wildfire protection responsibilities: A change to the vhfhsz map based on a change to an area's basic wildland fire protection responsibility. This specifically includes:

A. Changes from federal ownership to LRA.

B. Annexations of vhfhsz of SRA to LRA.

3) Geographic Information System cartographic updates or zonee modeling or cartographic errors.

Training Shell 11/1/07

How to Use the Homeowner Wildfire Assessment

This online assessment form will guide you through a series of questions about your home and yard, and then provide you with a customized report about its vulnerability to wildfire. You will also receive guidance for possible home improvements and routine maintenance steps that you can take that may reduce your vulnerability to wildfire.

Please read the important notes below, and then click to begin the assessment:

Go to Assessment

More Information About this Assessment

This wildfire hazard assessment was developed for homeowners living in close proximity to wildland areas -- living near a wildland area may mean that your home is at increased risk from wildfires. To complete this assessment, you will need to provide answers to questions about your home. We have provided a link to a printer-friendly version of the form that you can print and complete before entering them online, as you may need to walk around the outside of your home to get some of the answers.

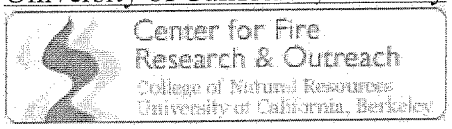
Once you have answered the questions online, click submit, and you will get a customized report based on your answers to the survey questions.

Important Notes

This assessment is intended to be an educational guide to help homeowners to lessen wildfire hazards on their property. The survey does not take into account the effect of nearby wildlands or other homes. It is important to note that the survey and possible solutions to any questions do not guarantee your home will not be harmed in the event of a wildfire.

This survey is anonymous -- no information from this survey will be retained.

Developed by the Center for Fire Research and Outreach in the College of Natural Resources at the University of California, Berkeley.



web version | printer-friendly version

For explanatory information on specific questions, roll your mouse pointer over the question. You can also click here to see the glossary, which contains definitions for specific terms. Click here for Frequently Asked Questions.

1. Is your roof combustible?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
2. Does your roof have any unstopped or unscreened open roof tiles?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
3. Is your roof, or a portion of your roof, in poor condition, potentially exposing the underside of your roof?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
4. Is your roof valley design something other than woven that may expose the underside of your roof?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
5. Do you have a flat roof or a complex roof that may create vulnerable corners and/or surfaces?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
6. Do you have any unscreened chimney openings?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
7. Are your roof gutters unscreened?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
8. Is there any combustible vegetation, vegetative debris, or other combustible material on or touching the roof and/or are three tree limbs within six feet of the roof?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a

1. Do you have any vents on the outside of your home that are unscreened and/or screened with a mesh size that is less than 1/4-inch?
○ yes ○ no ○ na
2. Do you have vents located in areas where you also have combustible or poor condition siding?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
3. Do you have any gaps around your exterior doors?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
4. Do you have any gaps around your garage doors?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
5. Do you have any other gaps located on your home?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
6. Do you have any man-made fuels located alongside vents and/or gaps in your home?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
7. Do you have any combustible vegetation, vegetative debris, or other combustible materials located alongside vents and/or gaps in your home?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a

1. Is your siding combustible?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
2. Is the siding, or a portion of the siding, on your home in poor condition?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
4. Does your home have a combustible exterior staircase?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
5. Are there any man-made fuels located within 30 feet of your siding?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
6. Is there any combustible vegetation, vegetative debris, or other combustible material located alongside your siding?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
7. Is there a combustible fence or gate located within 12 feet of your siding?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a

1. Does your home have combustible eaves or overhangs?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
2. Are your eaves in poor condition?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
3. Are your eaves located directly over combustible siding?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
4. Does your home have any horizontal surfaces that would allow embers to become trapped?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
5. Are there any man-made fuels adjacent to the underside of an eave and/or overhang?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
6. Is there any combustible vegetation adjacent to the underside of your eaves and/or overhangs?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
7. Are your eaves boxed/closed or unboxed/open?
☐ boxed
☐ unboxed
☐ na

1. Does your home contain a deck, balcony, open entry-way, and/or open porch?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
2. Are the exposed boards (fascia) along the roofline, eaves or combustible decking in poor condition?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
1. Are all of your windows sreened?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
2. Does your home contain any single pane windows?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
3. Are your combustible window frames in poor condition?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
4. Does your home contain skylights?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
5. Are there any man-made fuels alongside your windows?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
6. Is there any combustible vegetation or vegetative debris near the windows?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
7. Does your home contain tempered windows?
○ yes ○ no ○ n/a
This assessment form is still being improved, if you have comments that would help us make it better, please enter them below.

SUBMIT

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